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Maine Conservation Connection, January - February 2015

Maine Conservation Corps

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Maine Conservation Connection

Maine Conservation Corps

2015



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★



Maine Conservation Corps Joins Midcoast Cleanup

With the close of the 2014 season comes a dramatic success story!

In early November, 2014 a powerful wind-storm rocked Midcoast and Downeast Maine communities. Heavy winds pushed down trees and power lines. According to CMP 221,000 accounts (likely over 500,000 people) were without power. More than 170 power poles were broken and



many residents went without power for the entire week.

MCC members are trained in National Incident Management System (NIMS) and can be recruited to respond to emergency incidents. MCC Members joined the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Knox County Emergency Management Agency in the recovery effort following the storm.

Richard Higgins, MEMA's Individual Assistance Officer and State Voluntary Agency Liaison, said: "MCC's Director, Jo Orlando, had been working with -

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MEMA to develop and utilize a disaster response team for debris removal requests after disasters. We welcomed the offer of this resource, but had not really had a chance to exercise that offer until now."

Their efforts proved fruitful. MCC staff immediately "put together a cooperative response team of members trained in chainsaw safety and operation to provide clean-up" to Maine's Midcoast and Downeast communities, according to MCC Environmental Steward and Community Leader Program Coordinator Krista Rogers.

"It was literally a matter of hours between my initial conversation with [MCC Field Team Program Coordinator] Sara Knowles and the deployment of a team to Knox County to help with debris removal. The whole process was very expedient, smooth, and professional," said Higgins.

For the next two weeks, MCC's response team, led by MCC Training Coordinator Jim Weston, logged some 262 hours of service to the Knox County Emergency Management Agency and the Maine Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MEVOAD).

Ray Sisk, Director of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency, said toward the end of the deployment, "The MCC folks worked incredibly well and clearly exceeded my expectations." He went on to say, "I'll certainly use [MCC] again if the situation dictates." Ray also reported that be-

tween 11/6 and 11/11 MCC field teams removed 1,236 yards of material from 55.1 miles of roads.

MCC Director Jo Orlando has expressed pride in the work of our members during this time of crisis. In all 8 MCC members and Training Coordinator Jim Weston were involved in the cleanup. AmeriCorps member participants were, Whitney Bushy, Richard Barnhart, Nathan Bartnick, Michael Treschitta, Matthew Kennedy, Elizabeth Deletetsky, Zachary Nichols, and Julie Winzler.

Each of them were sent a letter of thanks from the desk of Ray Sisk and Andrew Hart, the Knox County Administrator.



Between 11/6 and 11/11 MCC field teams removed 1,236



Staff Changes 2015: Meet Jasmine Greenman

In late 2014 the Maine Conservation Corps welcomed a new Office Associate, **Jasmine Greenman**. Jasmine is originally from Greenfield, Maine and has lived in Maine all of her life.

Jasmine's career before now has been in medicine, having spent years working with Central Maine Medical Center as a patient service representative. Now having been with us for 2 months she hopes to learn about Volunteering and Community Service.

Fun Fact: Enjoys the outdoors and baking.

STAFF CHANGES 2015: MEET DOUG BECK

The MCC announces a new Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, **Doug Beck**.

Doug Beck is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Philadelphia was decidedly less urban than you might expect. His childhood home was in Mount Airy and within walking distance of Wissahickon Park. Philadelphia boasts the largest inner-city park system in the world.

At a young age he developed an interest in animals and plants which lead to him enrolling in the Pennsylvania State University eventually graduating with a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation with an emphasis in Environmental Interpretation.



After moving to Maine he found employment with the city of Auburn and became associated with the Maine Recreation and Park Association. His first contact with the Outdoor Recreation Supervisor office was in 1989. At the time the position was

held by Mike Gallagher. Over the years he has been involved in the Maine Trails Advisory Committee and the Active Community and Environment Work Group.

Fun Fact: Has been birdwatching since 1974.

TRAINING COORDINATORS



Field Team Training Coordinator: Erin Amadon is returning to us after 9 successful years in the Maine Conservation Corps. She started with the MCC as a Team Leader, becoming a Senior Team Leader, and Field Team Training Coordinator in order to share her knowledge of trail building.

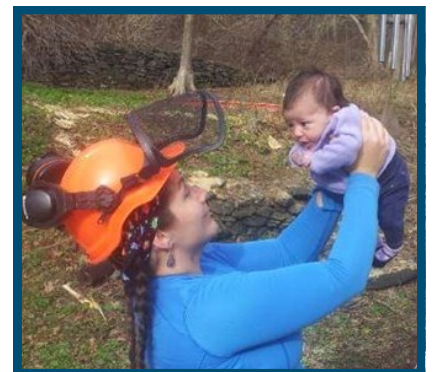
Originally from Cornish, New Hampshire, trail work is Erin's life and passion. She graduated with a Bachelors of Social Science in Park Management and is a semester grad from National Outdoor Leader School and is currently a partner in a private Trail company.

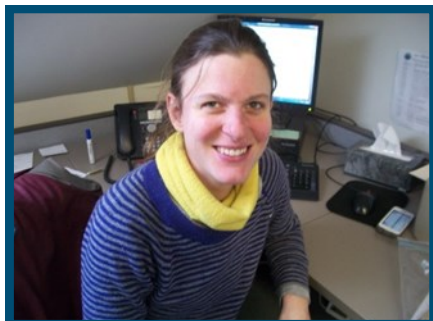
Fun Fact: When vacationing from her job in trail work Erin volunteers to do yet more trail work.

Community Leader Training Coordinator: Deidrah Stanchfield: A native Augustan, Deidrah is not far from home or her Alma Mater, UMA.

After two successful seasons with the Maine Conservation Corps, as a Field Team Member, and then a Field Team Leader, Deidrah has returned to pass her experience on to others. Before joining the Maine Conservation Corps she was a Certified Nursing Assistant for eight years and has recently become a Mother.

Fun Fact: Once owned 120 pet lizards. Also, Currently the Director of the Augusta Community Warming Center.



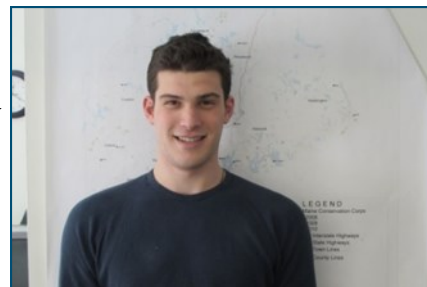


Senior Team Leader: Lindsey May Lindsey comes to us from Waukesha, Wisconsin. During High School she worked a single season as a member of the MCC Field Team. She returned as a Team Leader for two years and is now in her third year as Senior Team Leader.

Fun Fact: After earning a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from University of Wisconsin Stout she spent time hiking the Appalachian Trail under the nickname "Spiller."

2015 Environmental Stewards

Gregory Mulcahy: From Shapleigh, Maine, Greg is the son of Shapleigh residents Christopher and Susan Mulcahy. He graduated from Massabesic High School and is a 2014 graduate of the University of New Hampshire with an Environmental Science degree. Greg's host site is the Racheal Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells, Maine.



Elizabeth Deletetskey: From Portland, Maine, Liz is a returning member of the Maine Conservation Corps. She is the daughter of Michael and Donna Deletetsky and has a degree in Biology from the University of Maine, Orono. Liz will be spending her season at Racheal Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells, Maine.

Anna Farrell: From Maumee, Ohio, Anna is a returning member of the Maine Conservation Corps. Ana is a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame Academy and is a 2013 graduate of Denison University with an Environmental Studies/Geosciences degree. Ana will be spending her term of service at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory.



Wesley Ham: From Acton, Maine, Wes is returning to the Maine Conservation Corps for his fourth season. Wes is a 1973 graduate of the Sanford Vocational Technical School and is a 1989 graduate of the University of Southern Maine with an Earth Science degree. Ham previously served as an Environmental Educator with MCC in 2012 and as an Environmental Steward with MCC in 2013 and 2014. Once again Wes will be stationed at Vaughan Woods State Park under Glenn Dochtermann.

Environmental Stewards Continued

Taylor Ouderkirk: From Redfield, New York, Taylor is the son of Redfield residents Chris and Laurie Ouderkirk. He is a graduate of Sandy Creek Central School and is a 2013 graduate of SUNY - The College at Brockport with an Environmental Science degree. Taylor will be spending his field season with the DEP River and stream monitoring program in Augusta, Maine.



2015 Community Leaders



Hannah Colbert: From Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut, Hannah is the daughter of David Colbert and Ellen Moon. Hannah has a Degree in Foreign Language and Translation from Bennington College. She will be spending her season at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport, Maine.

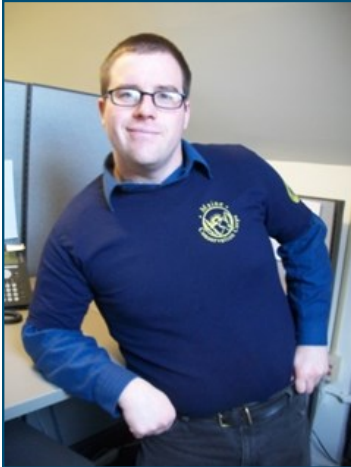
Ryder J Bailey: From Wellington, Maine, Ryder graduated Piscataquis Community High School and attends the American Military University, majoring in Environmental Science.



Shawn Levesque: From Lewiston, Maine, Shawn is the son of Lewiston residents Gerard and Deborah Levesque. He graduated Lewiston High School and attends the University of Southern Maine, majoring in Leadership and Organizational Studies. Levesque served in the U.S. Army as an armored reconnaissance specialist for three years stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

Dan Muller: From Sumner, Maine. He graduated from North Kingstown High School and is a 1992 graduate of the University of Rhode Island where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. Muller is a U.S. Army veteran who served from 1982-1984 as a Heavy Anti-Armor Weapons Infantryman.





Dylan Cookson: Having served two years as a Community Leader with the Maine Conservation Corps, Dylan has returned as the MCC's newest Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. Dylan is originally from Corinna, Maine and is the son of Corinna residents Shane and Carla Cookson. He graduated from Nokomis High School in 2006 and from the University of Maine in 2011 with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology.

Fun Fact: Is developing and increasingly strong fixation with the color blue.

Martin Luther King Jr.

“What are you doing for others?”



MCC members and Volunteer carry much needed supplies into The Warming Center

Every year, AmeriCorps Members across the nation celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in community service projects. This year, 5 Maine Conservation Corps AmeriCorps members and 2 staff members gave their time at The Augusta Community Warming Center.

The ACWC provides a warm, safe place for those in need during the winter. MCC members helped the center organize and collect donated clothing and food. Deidrah Stanchfield, our current Community Leader Training Coordinator, is also the director of the Warming Center. Deidrah had this to say about the MCC's participation:

DEAR MAINE CONSERVATION CORPS,

"MLK Day 2015



'On Monday, 1/19/2015, The Maine Conservation Corps collected donations from 2 locations of CMP (Central Maine Power), Maine Conservation Corps, Bureau of Public Lands, 3 Savings Bank of Maine branches and Penney Memorial Church. There have also been donation boxes previously collected from the YMCA, the Augusta Career Center, and Gevolution.

MCC collected and carried 51 bags and boxes through the door at the Augusta Community Warming Center. Those boxes contained: 7 Large containers of coffee, 3 containers of creamer, 2 boxes of sugar and one box of sweet and low, 10 boxes of tea, 2 boxes of spiced cider, 2 boxes of hot chocolate, 118 single and 55 boxes of individually packaged snacks, 9 bottles of cleaning solutions, 4 boxes of tissues, 12 pairs of boots, more than 45 coats and numerous warm winter clothing items. The Maine Conservation Corps sorted through and organized 21 boxes of warm winter clothes, some new donations and some that had been received earlier. They were assisted by several regular volunteers of the ACWC.

"The Maine Conservation Corps sorted through and organized 21 boxes of warm winter clothes, some new donations and some that had been received earlier. They were assisted by several regular volunteers of the ACWC."

This was a HUGE success as you can tell by the numbers! This contribution will make an enormous difference in the lives of the guests that utilize The Augusta Community Warming Center. There has been an average of 43 guests per day signing into the ACWC.

Thank You so much for your contributions, your thoughtfulness and willingness to help those less fortunate in your community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'". On this day you have all made a giant contribution to the lives of people who will sincerely appreciate it.

Once again, thank you.'

Sincerely, *Deidrah Stanchfield*



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As part of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, the MCC's four-fold mission is to: accomplish conservation projects, create conservation employment, provide conservation education, and engage conservation volunteers.

Since 1993 the MCC has supported the goals of AmeriCorps and is also affiliated with the Corps Network, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH, JANUARY

David Van Twistern came to the MCC with a mind to volunteer for us in the office. A returning volunteer David has worked with field teams in the past alongside MCC members and his own sons. We arranged an interview with David and he began volunteering with us on January 29th. So far he has been involved in assisting Doug Beck with research on how other States administer Recreational Trail Proposals.

David has an extensive resume with multiple degrees, certificates and certifications. We are very lucky to have someone with David's background and expertise approach us. His help will be invaluable to the MCC in the coming year.

